

SEIZURE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Adapted from *Neurology* 2000;55:616-623© 2000 [American Academy of Neurology](#) Special Article: Practice parameter: Evaluating a first nonfebrile seizure in children. Report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology, the Child Neurology Society, and the American Epilepsy Society D. Hirtz, MD, et al.

Outline for seizure assessment

Features of a seizure:

Associated factors

Age

Family history

Developmental status

Behavior

Health at seizure onset

Precipitating events other than illness—trauma, toxins

Health at seizure onset—febrile, ill, exposed to illness, complaints of not feeling well, sleep deprived

Symptoms during seizure (ictal)

Aura: Subjective sensations

Behavior: Mood or behavioral changes before the seizure

Preictal symptoms: Described by patient or witnessed

Vocal: Cry or gasp, slurring of words, garbled speech

Motor: Head or eye turning, eye deviation, posturing, jerking (rhythmic), stiffening, automatisms (purposeless repetitive movements such as picking at clothing, lip smacking); generalized or focal movements

Respiration: Change in breathing pattern, cessation of breathing, cyanosis

Autonomic: Pupillary dilatation, drooling, change in respiratory or heart rate, incontinence, pallor, vomiting

Loss of consciousness or inability to understand or speak

Symptoms following seizure (postictal)

Amnesia for events

Confusion

Lethargy

Sleepiness

Headaches and muscle aches

Transient focal weakness (Todd's paresis)

Nausea or vomiting